

EL PASO HERALD

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President Carpenter's Pretty Wit

THE transparent pretense of the present school board that it is "not a political body" as expressed in the letter of president Carpenter and secretary Harper to the Citizens' candidates, is in keeping with the ridiculous farce of the whole deplorable political system by which the public schools are managed by and for a coterie of scheming politicians with no accountability to the public. Everybody knows the whole system of "electing" school trustees is a farce. The trustees as they have been elected heretofore, can in no sense be the representatives of the people. The nominees of the "ring" are chosen by one or two men and every care is taken to retain political control over the schools.

As the correspondence published today shows, the Citizens' candidates asked to have the names of all six candidates printed on one ballot, arranged according to lot. This plan would to a large extent remove the taint of partisan or political influence in the popular choice. Under such a plan the school election would become a choice among the fittest men for the positions rather than an expression of allegiance to the "ring." The truth appears to be that the "ring" cannot trust its own voters to make an intelligent choice, but must have a separate "ticket" and a party name or emblem of some kind to guide the unintelligent voter in selecting the ticket the boss directs him to vote.

The Citizens' candidates have now made a new proposition to the school board that the names be arranged on a single list in alphabetical order. This would give the "ring" candidates a decided advantage, even with the most ignorant voters, as they would have two of their number at the beginning of the list and one at the end—it would be easy for the "ring" managers to give specific directions to their voters who do not read or speak English.

The school board does not of course mean to joke when it talks about itself being a non-political body, so that it is to be presumed the board will discuss for as much as 15 seconds the latest proposition of the Citizens' candidates in the interest of a fair election before the school board refuses to grant this very reasonable request.

Look up your poll tax receipt. You will need it at the polls Saturday.

The Herald cannot print anonymous communications and it will not print letters bearing on the water question unless the real name of the writer be printed with the communication.

The annual cost of alcoholic liquor to the people of Germany is more than twice the combined cost of the army and navy, more than four times the cost of workingmen's insurance, and about five times the total outlay for public elementary education.

Let us have before Saturday the auditor's report on the school board's books. The audit was authorized quite a while ago and there is probably no good reason why the result cannot be given to the public before the school election. If it is favorable to the present board there can be no reason for suppressing it.

The Burden Of Responsibility

MAYOR ROBINSON, in transmitting to the International Water company the resolution recently passed by the council setting forth the position of the city government, uses these words, "The city of El Paso disclaims all responsibility for the failure to come to an agreement and for the grave and too probable consequences thereof to all concerned and not least to the International Water company."

The mayor and council cannot dodge the responsibility for "the failure to come to an agreement" or for the "grave and too probable consequences." The mayor and council are elected to manage the affairs of the city as a board of directors would manage the affairs of a business corporation. If the board of directors of a business corporation conducts business in such a way as to jeopardize the interests of the corporation and of one of its strongest business allies, the said board of directors cannot consistently report back to the stockholders that it "disclaims all responsibility for failure."

The city council at the urgent suggestion of retiring mayor Sweeney, sought to impose upon the water company an impossible condition, impossible in that it would compel the stockholders in the water company to do business practically without one cent of profit now or hereafter. That restriction would be unjust and the position of the city council in this particular is unfair to the water company and is largely responsible for "the failure to come to an agreement."

The whole burden must now rest upon the mayor and city council until steps are fully taken to open the entire question to popular expression through a special election.

Notwithstanding the well known opposition of the mayor and city council to municipal ownership, there is a strong demand in this city for the purchase of the present plant at a fair price as the basis for a future complete municipal system. This proposition based on the plan proposed by mayor Sweeney's second water commission should be put squarely before the people for a vote. If it is turned down, that is the end of it; but the people should have a chance to express themselves on this purchase plan.

If the purchase plan should be turned down, there would be, as governor Sayers plainly pointed out, only one alternative in justice to both the water company and the city, which is to raise the rates to a point that will enable the water company to borrow the additional funds necessary to extend and improve its plant and go on doing business at a fair profit to the investors.

There really is no third proposition to consider. It is a clear cut alternative between purchasing the present plant and raising the rates to the present company. No other proposition can be considered at this time.

After this matter is disposed of the city can take up and dispose of the question of putting in a high pressure system for fire purposes and also for flushing sewers, sprinkling streets, watering parks, etc., in the lower parts of town—a system that could be supplied with water from wells near the river because there would be no need to provide for such use, water that was chemically pure or fit for domestic use. Probably the present water company, once rehabilitated, would be willing to make a fair proposition to the city to put in this auxiliary plant, not for domestic use, but for what may be called the rougher uses of a municipal water supply. We would not burn champagne in an alcohol stove; we would not feed strawberries to the pigs. Why should we flush our sewers and sprinkle our streets with pure mesa water costing 20c per 1000 gallons? There is an abundance of pure water on the mesa, but it will always be expensive to develop and furnish. This is the water for domestic purposes in El Paso for all time to come, but some plan of auxiliary service for the rougher uses of water will have to be devised. This could be done either through the present company in case it is rehabilitated, or by the city itself under municipal ownership.

The need for an early settlement of this problem is imperative.

Let the city call for an election as soon as it can lawfully be done, so that the people may have a chance to express themselves on the two propositions of purchasing the present plant or raising the rates to the present company. The special restriction as to net income which the council seeks to impose upon the water company as a condition of raising rates is unfair and impossible of acceptance, and that there is no need to submit the proposition in that form to the people. Let the rate raising proposition go to them in the shape as submitted by governor Sayers, and the purchase plan according to the suggestion of the second water commission.

Delay subjects us to the dangers of conflagration and pestilence, and there can be no throwing off of responsibility by the mayor and city council in that matter. It is plainly their next move.

The Texas case cited by the attorney general's department bearing on the question of secretary Harper's salary at a member of the school board is held by lawyers to establish the illegality of this payment. A school board that will give the benefit of public contracts to its own members, directly or indirectly, and will pay one of its members a salary in direct violation of law, does not deserve the unqualified confidence of the people.

If the city were prepared to consent to the use of water from under the valley in the neighborhood of Washington park and the two cemeteries, an opportunity should be allowed the present company to furnish this kind of water rather than that an independent and competing proposition be encouraged whether under municipal or private ownership. The city has forced the present company to stay on the mesa and develop the water supply there. Nobody has ever denied that water can be had in the valley much cheaper. It would be obviously unfair, however, to impose burdensome restrictions upon the present company and then give another concern the advantage by removing the restrictions.

UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

TWO men were wrangling over the tariff; one called the other a scamp, or something stronger yet; and after further dark blue phrases they punched each other's heads like blazes, till wet with blood and sweat. One hit the other with a shutter and knocked him endways in the gutter, with melancholy clug; and there, with wondrous wind and bottom, they scrapped till peckers came and got 'em, and put 'em in the jug. Then up there came the statistician, who stood, with pencil in position, and figured on a plank; "the energy those men expended," he said, "before the scrap was ended, would turn a grindstone crank, three hundred million times, exactly; I've put the figures here compactly—they loom up fine as silk; that energy, if put to turning another crank, would do the churning of fifty tons of milk. That energy, of which I'm jawing, if harnessed down and put to sawing, would cut ten cords of oak; or it would pump two miles of water, or, in a butcher's yard, would slaughter twelve steers, and that's no joke. That energy, I say, dog gone it, would operate with wheels upon it, a coal mine, fifty years—' but here his eloquence forsook him, and then his keepers came and took him, and held him by the ears.

THE STATISTICIAN

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(From The Herald of this date, 1896)

14 Years Ago To-day

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS WATER; SOLDIERS BEAT PICKED TEAM

Mayor Campbell notified the city council at last night's meeting that the proposition to furnish water to the city at a minimum rate of 30 cents per month no longer held good and that the council is still in a quandary as to what it shall do in the premises. A meeting will be held again Tuesday to consider the water matter.

A curtain in the Wellington hotel caught fire last night from coming in contact with a bicycle lamp, which had been laid against it. The fire department was called out but the blaze was extinguished without damage.

There is a report to the effect that a triweekly Sunset limited will be put on next season.

Mrs. Louise Small has sold to Charles E. McGinty 17 acres of land in Ysleta for a consideration of \$75.

A. G. Foster delivered an address to the young men at the Y. M. C. A. this afternoon. Rev. G. M. Du Bois, of Colorado, preached at St. Clement's tonight.

Today is the ninth anniversary of the earthquake in El Paso, but there is no observance of the day.

General manager Thorne and superintendent Paul, of the T. & P., arrived in the city this morning and leave for the east this afternoon.

A picked team from El Paso was defeated by the team of Port Bliss this afternoon by a score of 19 to 15.

The women who could not attend the recent McGinty blowout have requested the organization to give another entertainment similar to the one given last February.

The G. H. pay car left \$16,000 here today.

THE WATER QUESTION MADE PLAIN

BY JAMES G. McNARY

Chairman of Mayor Sweeney's First Water Commission

Question—Why doesn't the city council either settle the water question itself, or give the people a chance to settle it?

Answer—I give it up.

Question—Have the people the right to a hand in the game?

Answer—I think it's the people's turn at the bat.

Question—Do the people of El Paso—private citizens, business men, city fathers, politicians, property owners, taken individually or collectively—appear to appreciate the gravity of the water question?

Answer—Not by an elephant's butt.

Question—Is there any other question of such vital importance to the health, happiness and prosperity of the people of this city today as the water question?

Answer—Absolutely none.

Q.—What is the net result to date of the efforts of the mayor, city council, water commission, commission No. 1, commission No. 2, receiver, court proceedings and master in chancery?

A.—Principally disappointment and expense.

Q.—We've learned something from the confusion and wrangling of the last 12 months?

A.—We've learned several things—so thoroughly that it would be tiresome to repeat them.

Q.—Where are we now?

A.—We're right up against it.

Q.—What are we up against?

A.—Exactly the same proposition as that set forth by the president of the water company, just a year ago in his letter to the council. Namely, the city must either raise the rates or buy the plant. The third alternative named then was that the company go into the hands of a receiver. Well, they've gone in and are about ready to come out, with a good big bill which the city—that is, we, the people, will very likely have to pay.

Q.—What have we gained by this ring-around-rosy process?

A.—A valuation on the plant considerably higher than that which the water company agreed to accept six months ago, and is still willing to accept.

Q.—Are the rates which the city council and water company agreed upon just and just?

A.—I spent three months as chairman of commission No. 1 studying the water question and I believe the amount of gross revenue named by Judge Sweeney is about right and I further believe that the schedule of rates agreed on by the city officials and water company as necessary to produce this gross revenue is tolerably fair and just.

Q.—Is the compromise price of \$227,000 a just price for the plant?

A.—I think for a cash consideration it is high, but when we consider that \$450,000 of the purchase price was to be in the form of 15 year 4 percent notes or long term bonds I believe the price is fair.

Q.—What upset the trade between the council and water company last week?

A.—The fact that the council wanted to limit the company to 5 per cent earnings on the valuation of the plant.

Q.—Was this 5 percent gross or 5 percent net?

A.—It was 5 percent net after operating expenses were paid.

Q.—What was that in dollars and cents?

A.—Six percent on \$1,400,000 (the value of the improved and enlarged plant) or \$84,000.

Q.—How much would that be reduced by payment of interest and sinking fund?

A.—The enlarged plant would be bonded for about \$1,000,000. The interest on those bonds at 5 percent would be \$50,000 per year and 2 percent sinking fund would be \$20,000 more, or a total of \$70,000; this subtracted from \$84,000 would leave an actual net income for stockholders of \$14,000 per year. A 1 percent charge for depreciation would just eat up this \$14,000, and the stockholders would have left not a red cent for dividends on their investment of several hundred thousand dollars.

Q.—If the city council should agree to waive this 6 percent earnings clause, would the water company stand to make a very big profit in the course of years?

A.—As the city grows the gross returns would certainly increase, and a much greater ratio than the expenses, and the profits might in a few years reach 15 or 20 percent.

Q.—But the law of the states gives the city council the right to set the rates, so that the profits of the company would be limited?

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The Making Of Paper

OVER 250 MANUFACTURERS IN UNITED STATES; RAGS USED FOR FINEST LINEN

By Frederic J. Haskin

THE meeting of the International Association of Pulp Sulphite and Paper Mills Workers in annual convention at Albany, New York, today, and the labor troubles now on between the paper mill workers and the mills, no less than the declared intention of Quebec to follow the suit of Ontario in prohibiting the exportation of unmanufactured wood and pulp from its crown lands, all together serve to bring the paper question again to the front. Newfoundland will not allow unmanufactured wood to leave the colony, and Ontario, in the 51,000,000 acres of timber suitable for paper making, prohibits its exportation. With Quebec following suit and British Columbia likely to fall in line at no distant day, conditions are rather gloomy for the manufacturer of pulp and paper, as well as for those who have to buy either.

Print Paper May Cost More.

It was stated freely in the course of the debates on the tariff that if Canada should decide to forbid the exportation of unmanufactured wood from its provinces, as had already been done in the case of two, it might force the cost of print paper higher than it ever has been. Heretofore Quebec has had a license tax of 40 cents a cord on all timber cut on crown lands, with an added tax of 25 cents if it were cut for manufacture outside of Canada. This has meant that the United States has had to pay a Canadian export duty of 25 cents a cord for all pulp wood received from there. What the outcome of the present legislative situation in Canada will be no one can predict with safety, but many believe that it will force publishers to pay more than ever before for print paper.

Will Affect Newspapers.

And this falls particularly hard upon newspaper publishers. They cannot very well increase their selling price, as the tendency seems to be down instead of up. Some industries may find the rise in the price of raw materials for the making of paper a two-fold increase in the price of the manufactured product. But this is not true of the publisher. It was one instance where the "ultimate consumer," the newspaper subscriber in this case, was made to suffer when print paper went up so sharply two years ago. The advance was variously estimated to aggregate from \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000 a year, and it came at a time when the advertisers were cutting down their contracts and the sales of papers were falling off. The burden all fell on the publishers themselves.

Process of Manufacture.

In order thoroughly to understand the basic principles of paper making from wood must be remembered that wood consists of fiber and binding materials, the fiber corresponding to the brick and the binding materials to the mortar in a brick wall. To make pulp for paper it is necessary to separate the fiber from the binding material; the former being used as the fiber and the latter excluded from papermaking. This is accomplished by three different processes. The vast majority of the pulp used in print paper making is produced by a mechanical process. Much of the high-grade paper is produced by an acid process, while the remainder is prepared by the use of an alkali. The pulp workers make pulp by the acid process, sulphurous acid being the chemical agent through which the binding materials are separated from the fiber.

Paper made by the sulphite method usually is of a higher grade than that made by the mechanical process, and the pulp costs just about twice as much, upwards of \$30 a ton. It is used mainly in the production of book paper, though a small percentage of it is used to mix with mechanically produced pulp in the manufacture of pulp for newspapers. Anyone who has watched a small boy turning a grindstone while his father sharpened an axe, has a fair idea of the way in which the pulp is made.

which print paper pulp is produced. The bark is removed from sticks of timber and they are pressed down against huge grist stones by hydraulic pressure. If the end of the stick were pressed against the revolving stone it would produce a kind of fine wood flour; but by pressing the sides against the fibres are torn loose and they give the necessary strength to the paper. When the pulp is ground water is kept playing on the grindstone in order to carry off the other elements and to prevent the wood from becoming dangerously heated by the great friction.

Spruce Timber Demanded.

The supply of spruce timber, from which the major portion of the ground wood pulp is made, is estimated at 70,000,000 cords in the United States, and many times that much in Canada. The average cost of spruce timber in the United States the cost is about \$3.50 per cord. The average transportation charges from Canada amount to approximately \$3.50 per cord, so it will be seen that the transportation charges place the cost of Canadian logs on about an even footing with those of the United States. Wood pulp cannot be produced profitably with steam or other expensive power. It requires from 15 to 100 horsepower a cord, and many tons of mechanically ground wood pulp, and the pulp will not be worth as much as \$15 a ton when made. It is only by the utilization of extremely cheap power that mechanical pulp can be produced at a profit under present conditions.

Poplar, Hemlock and Fir Also Used.

There were 251 factories in the United States engaged in the production of wood pulp in 1908. They used 3,348,000 cords of wood, with a value of \$12,000,000. Counting 600 cords the acre it will be seen that this means the annual deforestation of 669,000 acres of land for paper making purposes alone, or a territory equal in area to the state of Rhode Island. Of the total amount of wood consumed 1,487,000 cords were spruce wood. The principal woods, other than spruce, were poplar, hemlock, pine and fir. Spruce and poplar comprised two-thirds of all the timber used in paper manufacture. Of the spruce, one-half was made into pulp by the mechanical grinding, the other half by the mechanical grinding. Caustic soda was the reducing agent of nearly all of the poplar.

Cooked Under Pressure.

In making sulphite pulp the wood is first "steamed" or deprived of its bark. It is next cut into very fine chips and then placed in a machine known as the digester. Here it is cooked for eight or twelve hours with sulphurous acid or other pressure, and is then taken out and the refuse separated. The same process is followed in the use of caustic soda. The chips must be short so as to afford the digesting agent opportunity to follow the fiber, as very little of it would soak in across the grain.

Best Paper From Rags.

The best papers are made from rags, and the very best of the finer papers come from rags taken from shirt and other garment factories. The rags are boiled in water with huge steam compressors. They are first opened and then placed in the "threshers" where they are beaten and threshed by mechanical apparatus and the dust carried off by suction tubes. The odor of old rags is almost unbearable. From the threshers they are taken to the assorting room where they are sorted and all buttons and other foreign materials removed by women sorters and shredders. From here they are taken to the cutter which chops them up, and they go into the "devils," a machine that gives them such a chastening with its spike teeth that they are ready to release their final hold on all the dust and dirt that has accumulated during their journey from the cloth mill to the rag pile. They next

PIONEER PHILOSOPHY.



We didn't use to have to go to a ball game for amusement in El Paso; we just sat around and waited for somebody to be killed.

pass into a sieve-like structure where alternate suction and blowing removes the dirt and dust. Then they are ready for the cooking, where they are boiled and tumbled and tossed, and then boiled and tumbled and tossed some more.

The resultant pulp is emptied on a floor where the color and dirt are allowed to drain off. The pulp is then conveyed to the washing machines, where it is cut and torn and washed and strained until it is pure white and the water poured over it runs off through the sieve unsullied.

The pulp next goes to the drain and from there to a machine called the beater, which manipulates it and mixes it with bluing. The discovery of this process was due to an industrious housewife who accidentally dropped the bluing bag intended for her wash into her husband's paper vat. It produced the whitest paper he had ever made. He took it to London and sold it for a high price, and the chagrin that Mrs. Buttonshaw felt when she dropped her bluing into the paper vat was turned into rejoicing when her husband, on being told of what she thought was his misadventure, bought her a scarlet coat for his discovery.

After this comes the "bleaching," the transformation of what would otherwise be absorbent blotting paper into writing and printing papers. This is followed by a series of operations which transform the pulp into finished paper. Omitting for brevity's sake, the description of some of the ancillary and incidental operations, the Fourdrinier machine first has the pulp discharged on a wire cloth which is in the shape of an endless belt. Deckled edges of India rubber determine the width of the paper. As the stream flows on the water drains out, and the wire belt carries the pulp through the "dandy roll," which makes water marks and other characteristics. Then it passes between two felt rolls and, on an endless belt of moist felt, through two metal rolls which squeeze out any remaining water. From this it passes from one roll to another, the latter being heated by steam to hasten the drying process. It then goes to the calendars for the finishing touches. Left dried paper is dried by hand.

Printing Next to Farming.

The printing and publishing trades, taken from the manufacture of the raw materials to the actual printing and publishing itself, represent the greatest industry in America outside of farming. While all other trades show an average advance of fifteen-fold in the past 50 years, the printing and publishing trades have made a progress which shows a gain of more than 32 times what they were in 1850.

Tomorrow—The Southern Methodists.

LETTERS To the HERALD

THE GOOD OLD HERALD.

Fallon, Nev., April 26, 1910.

Editor El Paso Herald:

Please find enclosed my subscription to the good old Herald that wife and I enjoy reading so much.

Yours truly,

W. W. Ratliff.

ABOUT BARBERS.

Editor El Paso Herald:

The article you had in the issue of April 23 regarding the new sanitary laws for a barber shop passed in some town in Nebraska, are quite absurd. At the same time I believe I can give you an answer to each one of them, and if the patrons would practice them, would probably find barbers a different class of people.

First, it says: "A barber must not eat on his hands between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m." Very well, but at the same time how about the barber that has to put up with it from his customers? Also how many vile barbers does he have to stand over each day?

Second, "A barber shall not put his thumb in a man's mouth." He won't if you go to a first class union shop instead of a scab shop.

Third, "A barber shall not gossip." He would not if his customers were not so keen to hear the latest.

Fourth, "A barber must not use tobacco during his working hours." Isn't a barber allowed the use of any stimulants when he has to stand over lungers and all other kind of diseased people? Everyone knows tobacco is a very good disinfectant and I know of one instance, where there was an epidemic of diphtheria where about the whole population had it. One barber out of a shop of five barbers stopped the test because he used tobacco.

Fifth, "A barber should bathe after each customer or at least wash his hands." A barber certainly keeps his hands sterilized, for, in using hot towels, they use almost boiling hot water, and to bathe his hands in some are the cleanliest class of laboring people there are.

Now this is not written by a barber, but a

Printer.

OF HIS OWN VOLITION HERE.

From San Antonio (Tex.) Light and Gazette.

Texas mayors seem to be in the summer of their discontent. In El Paso the mayor resigns, and in Denison they are trying to make one resign.

Secretary Harper's Salary

The Law in the Case.

Editor El Paso Herald:

It is reported on the streets that one of the school trustees receives \$50 per month for acting as secretary of the board. Is this correct?

Does a member of the school board have a legal right to receive pay even though he acts as secretary of the board? Will you kindly answer above questions through the columns of The Herald and oblige.

School Patron.

[John H. Harper, member of the school board, admits that he receives \$50 per month as secretary. Following is the law covering the case: (Court of Civil Appeals of Texas, June 1, 1907.)

"Under Act Feb. 21, 1906, providing for the election of trustees to constitute the school board of an independent school district, all of whom shall serve without compensation, and directing that the school choose necessary officers and committees, each board cannot allow compensation to its secretary and treasurer elected from their own number, though Act June 23, 1897, as amended by Act June 6, 1899, allows the school board to pay for the salaries of employees, and other purposes necessary."

long will it take to make the changes in the present plant which are so imperatively needed?

It would take very nearly a year to order the new machinery, have it made, install it, lay the new mains, dig more wells, etc. In other words, if the question is settled, say within 30 days, the water company or the city would have to rush operations vigorously to have the plant ready to meet the demand this time next year.

Would it be fair for the proposed increase in rates to go into effect a year before the company was ready to cut out the Watts water?

This certainly would not be fair and just. But it appears to be necessary, if we want the International Water company to spend \$400,000 in improving the plant. They claim they can't extend the plant until they can sell more bonds and they can't sell the bonds until the rates are raised. The way out of the dilemma is plain—let the city buy the plant.

Will the people of El Paso ever consent to any other water than that "mesa water"?

Apparently not, willingly—that is,

sary in the conduct of the public schools, to be determined by the trustees."

In the opinion summary was rendered in the case of Andrew Dow brought in the district court of Harris county, against the board of trustees of the independent school district of Houston.

The case was brought to restrain members of the board from paying a salary to any of its members. S. E. Tracy, secretary and J. K. Settlejatt as treasurer.

The question was submitted to the attorney general's department at Austin and the following reply received: "Editor El Paso Herald: We have your letter requesting the opinion of this department as to whether a member of the school board of El Paso is permitted, by law, to accept a salary by acting as secretary of the board."

"We have to call your attention to the case of Houston vs. Dow, 63 Southwestern, 1027, which seems to cover the point raised by you."